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Mondale sees opportunity in Gromyko talk

By Alan McConagha
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NEW YORK — Walter F. Mondale emerged from a meeting with Andrei Gromyko yesterday to say "an opportunity" exists for progress in today's White House session with the Soviet foreign minister.

In a press conference after his 90-minute meeting, the Democratic presidential nominee also played President Reagan for "inexcusable" behavior in the suicide terrorist bombing of U.S. Embassy in Lebanon.

Although he refused to be specific, Mr. Mondale said that based on what Mr. Gromyko told him he felt there is an opportunity to make "significant progress" toward a summit and renewal of East-West arms control talks.

Mr. Mondale added, however, that much of what Mr. Gromyko

said reflected known Soviet positions or the hard line put forth in the foreign minister's speech yesterday to the U.N. General Assembly.

In fact, Mr. Mondale declined to point to anything that Mr. Gromyko said that held out hope for progress in reducing superpower tensions, and left the suggestion that the possibility of progress was founded on impressions.

The former vice president said he gave Mr. Gromyko a list of Soviet dissenters, including Anatoly Shcharansky, Andrei Sakharov and his wife, Yelena Bonner, about whom he is concerned and urged increased emigration of Soviet Jews.

He said he told Mr. Gromyko that Soviet-American relations must have the highest priority in the policies of both nations, and that they are now at a fateful point holding dangerous implications for human survival.

Mr. Mondale said he urged Mr. Gromyko to take steps toward a summit and renewed arms negotiations, and told him all Americans want movement on these issues right away under Mr. Reagan, there being nothing to be gained by delay.

In response to a question at the end of his press conference after the Gromyko session, the candidate blistered Mr. Reagan's explanations for the explosion at the Beirut Embassy, and said the episode had been greatly mishandled.

Mr. Mondale particularly objected to a statement attributed to the president in which Mr. Reagan laid part of the difficulty with faulty intelligence created by diminished support for the CIA by previous administrations.

Mr. Reagan is "dead wrong" in suggesting neglect by the Carter administration, and Vice President George Bush as much as said so, Mr. Mondale declared. Moreover, the president has had a full term to correct any weaknesses.

At their meeting at the Soviet mission to the U.N., Mr. Mondale was greeted by Mr. Gromyko in a reception area and the two men were photographed. When a reporter tried to ask a question, Mr. Gromyko cut him off and led the Democrat into an adjacent room.

Mr. Mondale was accompanied by his top national security adviser, David Aaron, arms control expert Barry Carter and William Krimer, a retired State Department interpreter who has participated in a number of summit meetings.

Participating on the Soviet side, besides Mr. Gromyko, were Anatoly Dobrynin, ambassador to the United States, Georgi M. Korniyenko, first deputy foreign minister and interpreter Viktor Sukhodrev.